



# Brownfields Assessment Demonstration Pilot

*Youngstown, OH*

Outreach and Special Projects Staff (5105)

Quick Reference Fact Sheet

**EPA's** Brownfields Economic Redevelopment Initiative is designed to empower states, communities, and other stakeholders in economic redevelopment to work together in a timely manner to prevent, assess, safely clean up, and sustainably reuse brownfields. A brownfield is a site, or portion thereof, that has actual or perceived contamination and an active potential for redevelopment or reuse. EPA is funding: assessment demonstration pilot programs (each funded up to \$200,000 over two years), to assess brownfields sites and to test cleanup and redevelopment models; job training pilot programs (each funded up to \$200,000 over two years), to provide training for residents of communities affected by brownfields to facilitate cleanup of brownfields sites and prepare trainees for future employment in the environmental field; and, cleanup revolving loan fund programs (each funded up to \$500,000 over five years) to capitalize loan funds to make loans for the environmental cleanup of brownfields. These pilot programs are intended to provide EPA, states, tribes, municipalities, and communities with useful information and strategies as they continue to seek new methods to promote a unified approach to site assessment, environmental cleanup, and redevelopment.

## BACKGROUND

EPA selected the City of Youngstown for a Brownfields Pilot. The Youngstown-Warren metropolitan area was once the third-largest steel producing community in the country, employing approximately 65,000 people. The area was devastated in the late 1970s, when many of the major steel mills closed, including Youngstown Sheet and Tube, Republic Steel, and U.S. Steel.

The Pilot area consists of 900 acres of brownfields along the banks of the Mahoning River bordering Campbell, Struthers, and Youngstown, Ohio. This area is called the Mahoning River Corridor of Opportunity and is a state-designated enterprise zone. It is estimated that 80 percent of land that can be redeveloped in the three cities are brownfields. The combined population of these cities is 118,054, 23 percent of which is minority. The average per capita income in the three cities is 30 percent below the state median income and more than 35 percent below the national median income; the poverty level is 21 percent, almost double the state level.

## PILOT SNAPSHOT



*Youngstown, Ohio*

**Date of Award:** September 1998

**Amount:** \$200,000

**Profile:** The Pilot targets 900 acres of brownfields along the banks of the Mahoning River bordering Campbell, Struthers, and Youngstown, Ohio.

### Contacts:

City of Youngstown,  
Department of Economic  
Development  
(330) 742-8701

U.S. EPA – Region 5  
(312) 353-3161

Visit the EPA Region 5 Brownfields web site at:  
<http://www.epa.gov/R5Brownfields/>

For further information, including specific Pilot contacts,  
additional Pilot information, brownfields news and events, and  
publications and links, visit the EPA Brownfields web site at:  
<http://www.epa.gov/brownfields/>

## OBJECTIVES

The Pilot plans to target six areas within the Mahoning River Corridor of Opportunity for assessment, cleanup, and redevelopment: a six-mile riparian corridor, a 34-acre industrial park on the site of a former steel mill, a 40-acre site that was used for residential and light commercial activities, a 29-acre vacant industrial park, a 30-acre former steel mill site, and several proposed bridge and roadway access routes. Community outreach and education activities will be targeted at those neighborhoods affected by brownfields redevelopment. The Pilot will also produce a database containing comprehensive information about the six targeted sites.

## ACCOMPLISHMENTS AND ACTIVITIES

*The Pilot is:*

- Performing Phase I and II environmental assessments on the targeted sites;
- Developing cleanup plans, based on the assessments, that will eliminate environmental hazards while fulfilling the needs of the surrounding communities;
- Producing a geographic information system (GIS) database that contains comprehensive information on the targeted sites; and
- Conducting regular planning meetings with community leaders and stakeholders.

## LEVERAGING OTHER ACTIVITIES

Experience with the Calumet City Pilot has been a catalyst for related activities, including the following:

- Cook County has provided the Pilot with a \$20,000 grant for a feasibility study for the targeted site.